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MYSTERY IN SPACE
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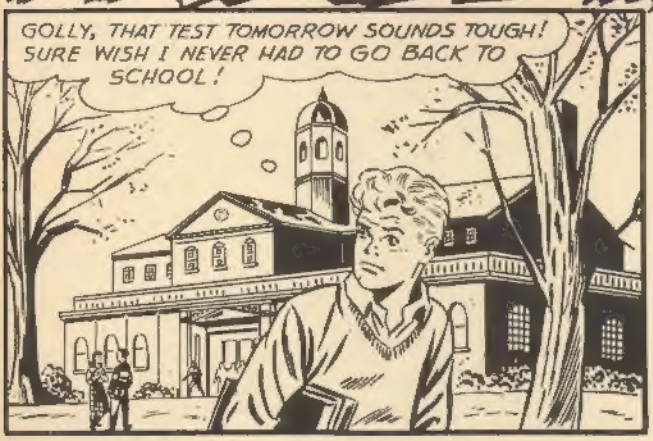
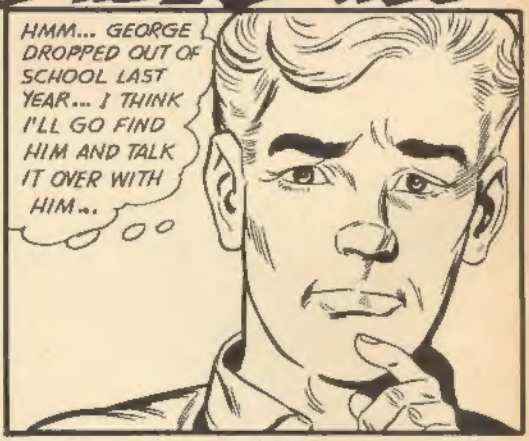
JUNE
NO. 84
WHATEVER WEAPON I TRY TO USE AGAINST THAT DUST DEVIL-- IS TURNED TO DUST!
AND WITHOUT A WEAPON, ADAM STRANGE, YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF DEFEATING ME!
Featuring
"The POWERLESS WEAPONS OF ADAM STRANGE!"

NOT WANTED: HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS!





SAY, TOM, WOULD YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND GEORGE? I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR HIM!
LAST TIME I SAW GEORGE HE WAS IN THE SAME SHOES I'M IN -- HAVING NO LUCK LANDING A DECENT JOB BECAUSE HE DOESN'T HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA!
STAR EMPLOYMENT AGENC
APPLY HERE FOR GOOD JOBS. HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES ONLY.

LATER...
THERE YOU ARE, GEORGE! I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU --
I'VE ONLY GOT A MINUTE, ALVIN! I HAVE TO STUDY FOR MY NIGHT CLASS TONIGHT. I'M FINISHING MY HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION SO I'LL BE ABLE TO GET A WORTHWHILE JOB!
DRUG

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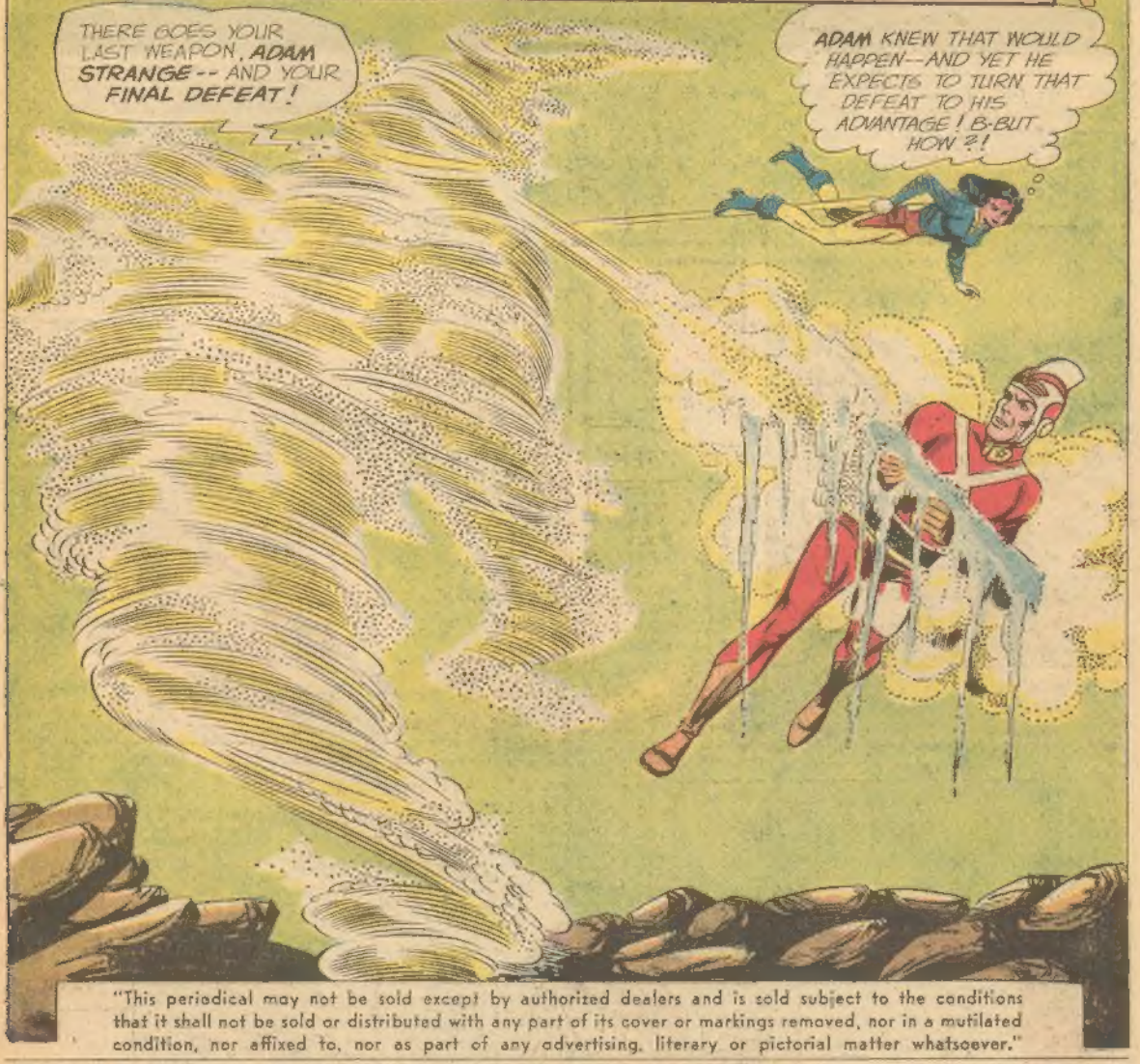
ADAM STRANGE

NO WEAPON COULD DEFEAT JAKARTA OF RHYNTHAR--THE DUST DEVIL WHO HAS BEEN ADAM STRANGE'S MORTAL ENEMY--FOR EVERY WEAPON ADAM TURNED AGAINST IT, THE DUST DEVIL DESTROYED! WITHOUT A WEAPON, HOW COULD THIS CHAMPION OF TWO WORLDS SAVE BOTH RANN AND EARTH FROM THE TERRIBLE FATE IN STORE FOR THEM?

The POWERLESS WEAPONS OF ADAM STRANGE!


THERE GOES YOUR LAST WEAPON, ADAM STRANGE--AND YOUR FINAL DEFEAT!
ADAM KNEW THAT WOULD HAPPEN--AND YET HE EXPECTS TO TURN THAT DEFEAT TO HIS ADVANTAGE! B-BUT HOW?!

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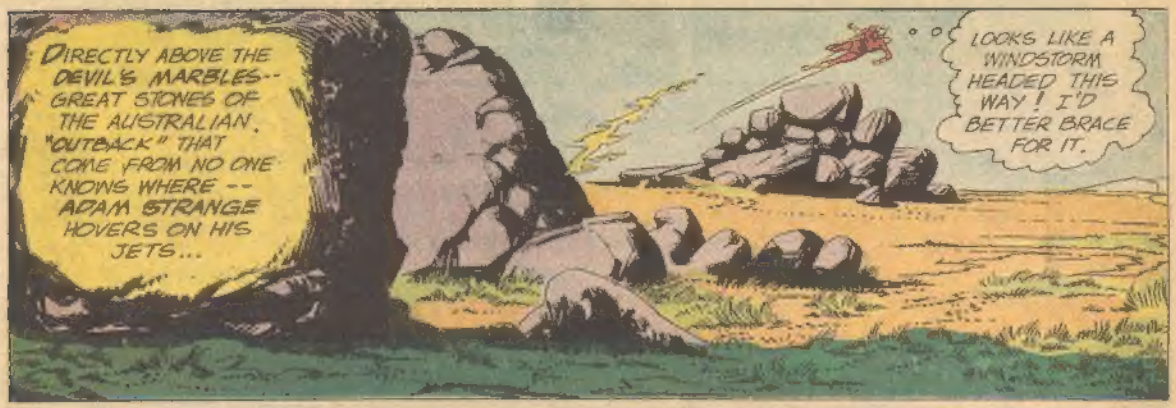
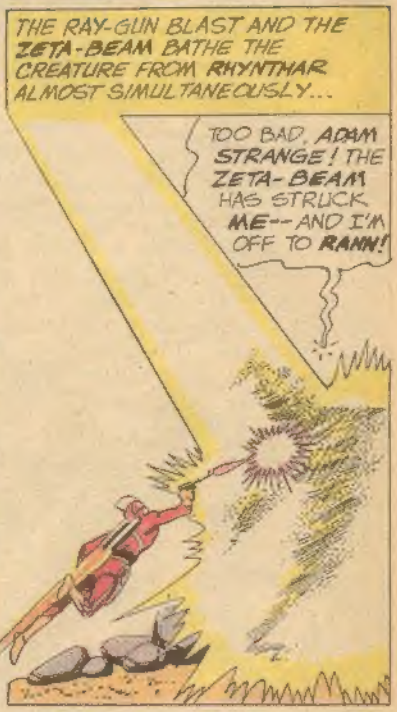
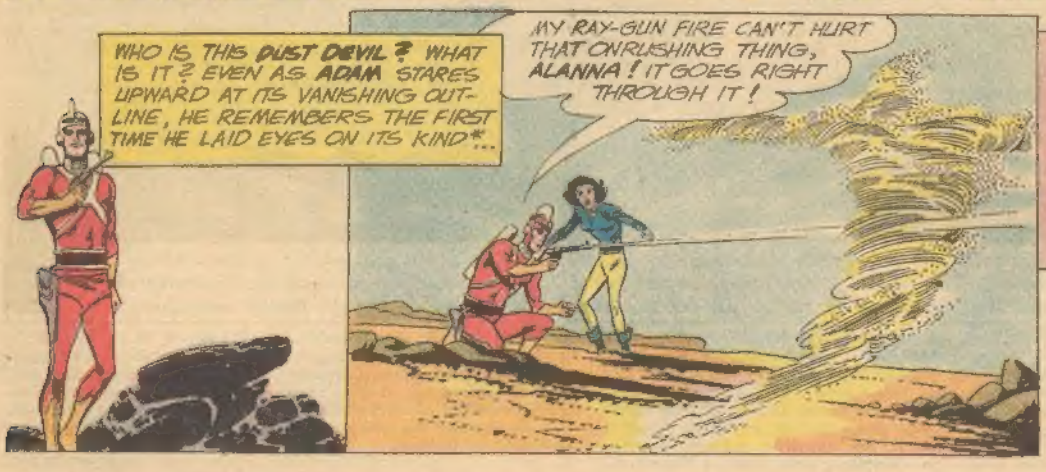

DIRECTLY ABOVE THE DEVIL'S MARBLES-- GREAT STONES OF THE AUSTRALIAN "OUTBACK" THAT COME FROM NO ONE KNOWS WHERE -- ADAM STRANGE HOVERS ON HIS JETS...
LOOKS LIKE A WINDSTORM HEADED THIS WAY! I'D BETTER BRACE FOR IT.

BUT AS THE "WINDSTORM" COMES NEARER...
THAT'S NO STORM BUT--THE DUST DEVIL-- MY LONG-TIME FOE WHO CALLS ITSELF JAKARTA OF RHYNTHAR! IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE IN A MELBOURNE PRISON, KEPT IN-ACTIVE BY A WIMSHURST MACHINE!*
*Editor's Note: FOR FULL DETAILS, SEE MYSTERY IN SPACE #70: "VENGEANCE of the DUST DEVIL!"

IT'S BLOWING ME AWAY FROM MY CONTACT POINT WITH THE ZETA-BEAM! MY RAY-GUN'S POWER-LESS AGAINST IT-- BUT IT'S THE ONLY WEAPON I HAVE! IF THE DUST DEVIL IS TRYING TO TELEPORT ITSELF TO RANN INSTEAD OF ME--IT'S UP TO NO GOOD!


THE RAY-GUN BLAST AND THE ZETA-BEAM BATHE THE CREATURE FROM RHYNTHAR ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY...
TOO BAD, ADAM STRANGE! THE ZETA-BEAM HAS STRUCK ME--AND I'M OFF TO RANN!


WHO IS THIS DUST DEVIL? WHAT IS IT? EVEN AS ADAM STARES UPWARD AT ITS VANISHING OUT-LINE, HE REMEMBERS THE FIRST TIME HE LAID EYES ON ITS KIND*...
MY RAY-GUN FIRE CAN'T HURT THAT ONRUSHING THING, ALANNA! IT GOES RIGHT THROUGH IT!
*Editor's Note: SEE MYSTERY IN SPACE #68: "The FADEAWAY DOOM!"

ON THE DEAD WORLD OF RHYNTHAR, ADAM FIRST LEARNED HOW TO OVERCOME THE DUST DEVILS...

THE DUST DEVILS SUDDENLY TURNED TO SOME HARD SUBSTANCE-LIKE GLASS! NOW I KNOW HOW TO STOP THESE THINGS!

LATER, ONE OF THE DUST DEVILS--WHO HAD FIGURED OUT HOW TO AVOID THE GLASS DOOM--TRAVELED TO RANN IN THE HOLSTER OF ADAM'S UNIFORM...

ADAM--THAT STREAM OF DUST--COMING UP OUT OF YOUR HOLSTER!

YES--WHERE I HID AWAY, ADAM STRANGE--WHEN YOU DESTROYED MY FELLOW-BEINGS ON RHYNTHAR!

THEN, ON EARTH, ADAM STRANGE DISCOVERED THAT STATIC ELECTRICITY AS GENERATED BY A WIMSHURST MACHINE COULD KEEP THE DUST DEVIL MOTIONLESS...

I TRICKED YOU! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T COME NEAR ME IF YOU SAW THIS WIMSHURST MACHINE--SO I HID IT ON MY BACK!

I--CAN'T MOVE!

NOW--QUIVERING WITH ANGER MIXED WITH FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE OF RANN--THE EARTH ARCHEOLOGIST STARES SKYWARD...

ON A PREVIOUS OCCASION, THE ZETA-BEAM INTERCEPTED A CREATURE BEFORE IT DID ME *--BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT TOOK ANYONE BUT ME FROM EARTH!

*Editor's Note: SEE MYSTERY IN SPACE #55: "BEAST FROM THE RUNAWAY WORLD!"

HE JETS AWAY FROM THE DEVIL'S MARBLES AT TOP SPEED...

I BETTER RETURN TO MY SECRET CACHE AND RESUME MY CIVILIAN IDENTITY--THEN GO TO MELBOURNE AND SEE HOW JAKARTA MANAGED TO ESCAPE FROM ITS PRISON! I HAVE SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE NEXT ZETA-BEAM STRIKES!

A FEW HOURS AFTERWARD, AT A LABORATORY-PRISON IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA ...

THERE WAS A POWER SHORTAGE HERE CAUSED BY AN ELECTRICAL STORM. SINCE THE WIMSHURST MACHINE THAT IMMOBILIZED THE DUST DEVIL WAS OPERATED BY ELECTRICITY, IT STOPPED WORKING -- ENABLING THE DUST DEVIL TO ESCAPE !

ADAM DRIVES ACROSS THE STUART HIGHWAY TO DARWIN ...

JAKARTA MUST HAVE GATHERED DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE ZETA-BEAM DURING ITS STAY ON RANN ! HMMM -- SPEAKING OF RANN, UNLESS THE DUST DEVIL CAN SOMEHOW SHAKE OFF THE EFFECTS OF THE ZETA-BEAM, IT'LL BE DRAWN BACK TO EARTH WHEN THE RADIATION WEARS OFF !

FROM DARWIN HE TAKES A JET-PLANE TO CAPETOWN, SOUTH AFRICA ...

THE DUST DEVIL WANTED TO TAKE OVER BOTH RANN AND EARTH IN THE PAST ! IT PROBABLY STILL WANTS TO -- SO IT'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT A WAY BY WHICH IT CAN TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN BOTH WORLDS !

BY JEEP HE MOTORS NORTHWARD ALONG THE MOLOPO RIVER TOWARD THE KALIHARI DESERT ...

FOR ALL I KNOW, JAKARTA MAY OVERCOME RANN BEFORE I HAVE A CHANCE TO STOP IT ! I HAVE ANOTHER WORRY, TOO ! THE DUST DEVIL MAY RETURN TO EARTH AND CONQUER IT WHILE I'M ON RANN !

ABOVE THE SANDS OF KALIHARI, SOME DAYS LATER ...

HERE COMES JAKARTA NOW ! IT MUST HAVE RETURNED TO EARTH WHEN THE ZETA-BEAM WORE OFF ! IT'S TRYING TO BEAT ME TO THE ZETA-BEAM AGAIN. BUT THIS TIME I'M READY FOR MY FOE !

I'LL BATTLE IT HERE ON EARTH AND PREVENT IT FROM RETURNING TO RANN TO COMPLETE ITS CONQUEST OF THAT PLANET ! THIS WIMSHURST MACHINE I BROUGHT WITH ME WILL STOP JAKARTA COLD !

MOCKING LAUGHTER FLOATS OUT ABOVE THE GREAT DESERT AS ADAM BRINGS THE STATIC ELECTRICITY BOX INTO PLAY...
HA, HA! YOU MUST TAKE ME FOR A FOOL, ADAM STRANGE! WHILE I WAS IN PRISON I WORKED OUT A WAY TO NULLIFY THE EFFECTS OF STATIC ELECTRICITY! DID YOU DELUDE YOURSELF THAT YOU COULD DEFEAT ME THAT WAY A SECOND TIME?
JAKARTA'S RIGHT! IT'S RESISTING THE ONLY MEANS I HAD FOR OVERCOMING IT!
HA, HA! I'VE PLANNED THIS REVENGE FOR OVER A YEAR! I INTEND CONQUERING RANN AND EARTH AS YOU STAND BY, ADAM STRANGE--POWERLESS TO STOP ME!
BATTLING SAVAGELY, ADAM TRIES TO ESCAPE THE AWESOME POWER OF JAKARTA...
IT'S FORCING ME--INTO THE PATH OF THE ZETA-BEAM!
OF COURSE! I WANT YOU ON RANN SO I CAN SHOW YOU HOW HELPLESS YOU'LL BE TO SAVE ITS PEOPLE FROM MY POWER! TEN--NINE--EIGHT--
THE DUST DEVIL IS MAKING THE COUNT-DOWN I USUALLY DO!
SEVEN--SIX--FIVE--FOUR...
AND THEN...
THREE--TWO--ONE--ZERO!!
I COULDN'T AVOID THE BEAM! HOW IRONIC! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I DIDN'T WANT TO GET HIT BY IT--SO I COULD REMAIN HERE AND FIGHT TO SAVE EARTH FROM THE DUST DEVIL!

INSTANTLY THE EARTHMAN IS TELEPORTED ACROSS 25 TRILLION MILES OF INTER-STELLAR SPACE TO THE PLANET **RANN** OF THE STAR-SUN **ALPHA CENTAURI**-- WHERE HE HAS GONE MANY TIMES BEFORE TO MEET HIS SWEETHEART **ALANNA OF RANAGAR** AND SHARE THE DANGERS THAT CONFRONT HER WORLD...

AS HE LANDS ON **RANN**, HE IS WARMLY GREETED BY **ALANNA**...

I MAY HAVE WANTED TO MISS THE **ZETA-BEAM**-- BUT I SURE DIDN'T WANT TO MISS **THIS**!

HONEY, I LEFT THE **DUST DEVIL** BACK ON EARTH, BUT WHAT HAPPENED WHILE IT CAME TO **RANN** IN MY PLACE--?

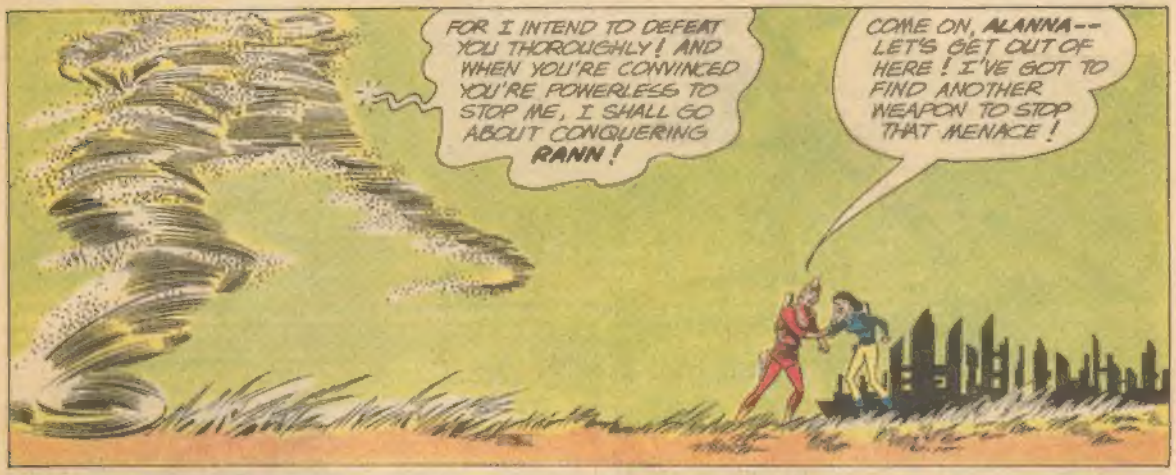
Y-YOU LEFT IT BACK ON **EARTH**?! BUT, **ADAM**-- THE **DUST DEVIL** IS **STILL HERE ON RANN**!

IN AMAZEMENT, **ADAM** SWINGS AROUND AS A MOCKING VOICE TELEPATHS TO HIM...

YES, **ADAM STRANGE**-- I AM HERE-- AND ON EARTH TOO! WHEN I CAME TO **RANN** IN YOUR PLACE I REALIZED THAT I WOULD SOON BE DRAWN BACK TO EARTH WHEN THE **ZETA-BEAM** WORE OFF!

"SO I SPLIT MYSELF INTO TWO IDENTICAL PARTS, CAUSING THE **ZETA-BEAM** RADIATION TO BE CONCENTRATED IN THE DUPLICATE PART OF ME..."

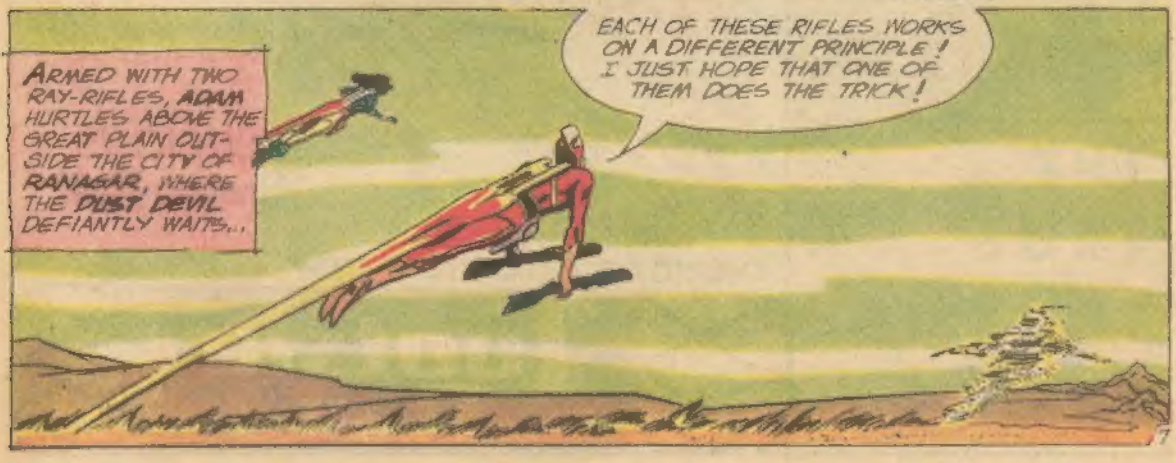
"WHEN THE **ZETA-BEAM** WORE OFF, MY 'OTHER' SELF WAS DRAWN BACK TO EARTH TO FORCE YOU TO COME TO **RANN**-- WHILE **I** REMAINED HERE TO OVERCOME YOU!..."

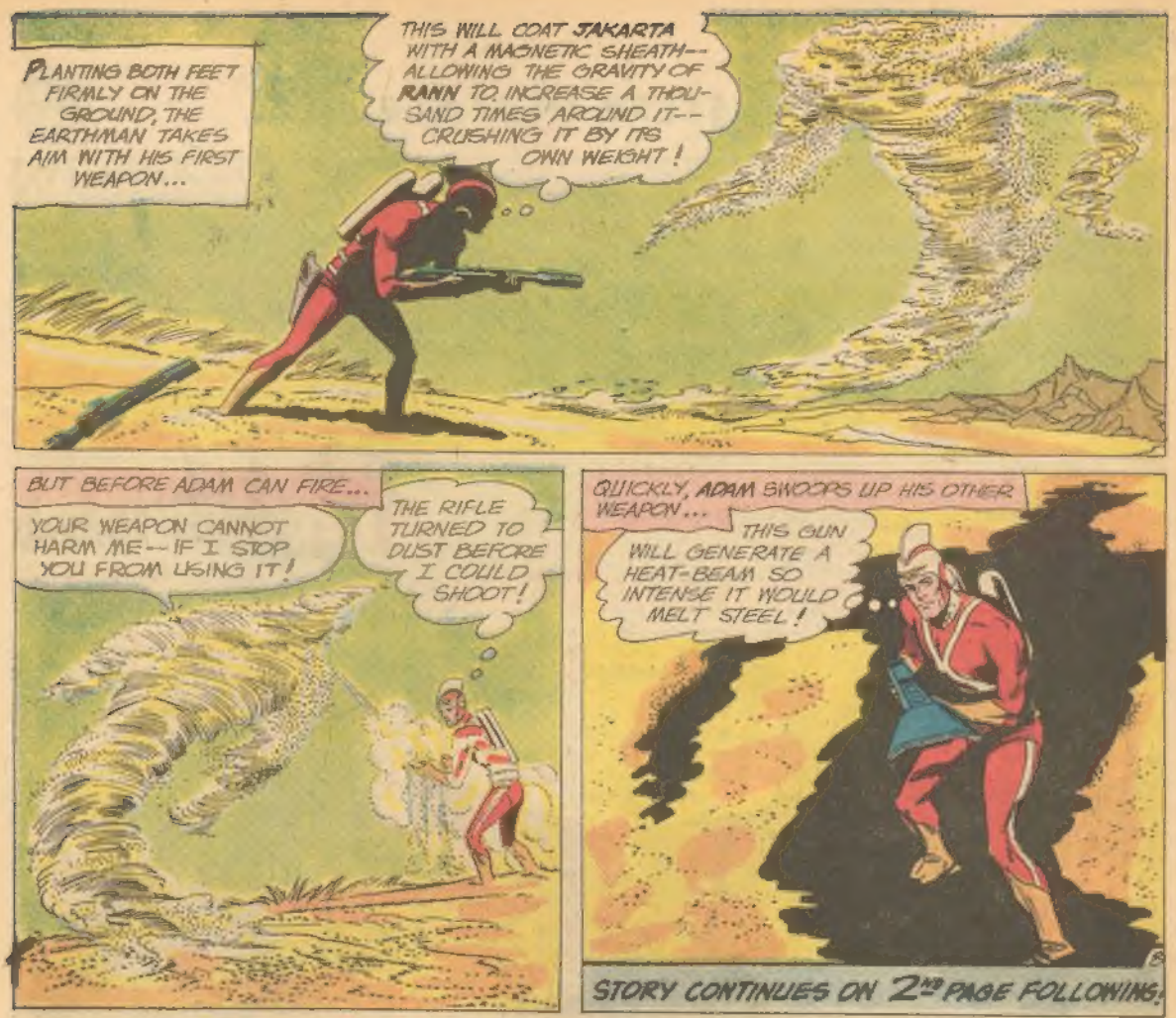

FOR I INTEND TO DEFEAT YOU THOROUGHLY! AND WHEN YOU'RE CONVINCED YOU'RE POWERLESS TO STOP ME, I SHALL GO ABOUT CONQUERING RANN!
COME ON, ALANNA--LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! I'VE GOT TO FIND ANOTHER WEAPON TO STOP THAT MENACE!

WITHIN THE HOUR IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF RANAGAR...
...AND SO YOU MUST OPEN YOUR WEAPON VAULTS IN THE HOPE THAT SOMETHING--SOMEHOW--WILL DEFEAT JAKARTA!

ADAM IS CONDUCTED TO THE GREAT SUBTERRANEAN ARSENAL WHERE THE GREATEST WEAPONS OF RANN ARE HIDDEN*...
WE HAVE MANY UNUSUAL WEAPONS IN HERE. YOU'RE WELCOME TO ANY OF THEM!
I MAY NEED THEM ALL BEFORE I'M THROUGH!

*Editor's Note: See MYSTERY in SPACE #54: "INVADERS FROM the UNDERGROUND WORLD!"


ARMED WITH TWO RAY-RIFLES, ADAM HURTLES ABOVE THE GREAT PLAIN OUTSIDE THE CITY OF RANAGAR, WHERE THE DUST DEVIL DEFIANTLY WAITS...
EACH OF THESE RIFLES WORKS ON A DIFFERENT PRINCIPLE! I JUST HOPE THAT ONE OF THEM DOES THE TRICK!


PLANTING BOTH FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND, THE EARTHMAN TAKES AIM WITH HIS FIRST WEAPON...
THIS WILL COAT JAKARTA WITH A MAGNETIC SHEATH--ALLOWING THE GRAVITY OF RANN TO INCREASE A THOUSAND TIMES AROUND IT--CRUSHING IT BY ITS OWN WEIGHT!
BUT BEFORE ADAM CAN FIRE...
YOUR WEAPON CANNOT HARM ME--IF I STOP YOU FROM USING IT!
THE RIFLE TURNED TO DUST BEFORE I COULD SHOOT!
QUICKLY, ADAM SWOOPS UP HIS OTHER WEAPON...
THIS GUN WILL GENERATE A HEAT-BEAM SO INTENSE IT WOULD MELT STEEL!
STORY CONTINUES ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!

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The POWERLESS WEAPONS OF ADAM STRANGE! PART 2

EVEN BEFORE ADAM CAN RELEASE THE ENERGY IN HIS FANTASTIC RIFLE, JAKARTA OF RHYNTHAR ENVELOPES IT WITH A DISINTEGRATING BLAST...

WHATEVER WEAPON I USE AGAINST THE DUST DEVIL--IS TURNED TO DUST!

AND WITHOUT A WEAPON, ADAM STRANGE--YOU HAVE NO CHANCE OF DEFEATING ME!

AS THE RAY RELEASE SHOWERS INTO LIGHT ON THE GROUND, ADAM RUNS AWAY FROM JAKARTA...

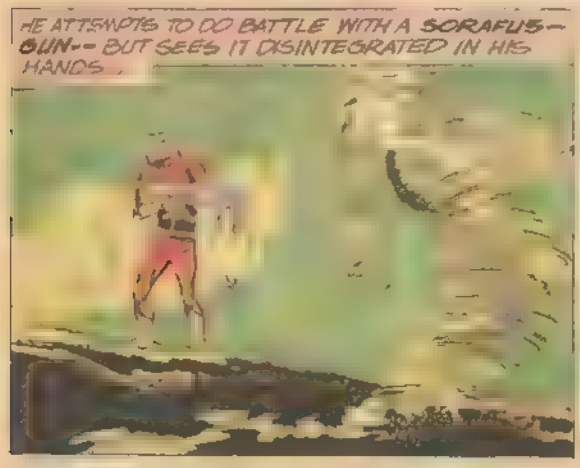
SO I'LL BACK TO THE LABORATORY TO INVENT SOME WEAPON I CAN USE EFFECTIVELY AGAINST THAT THING!

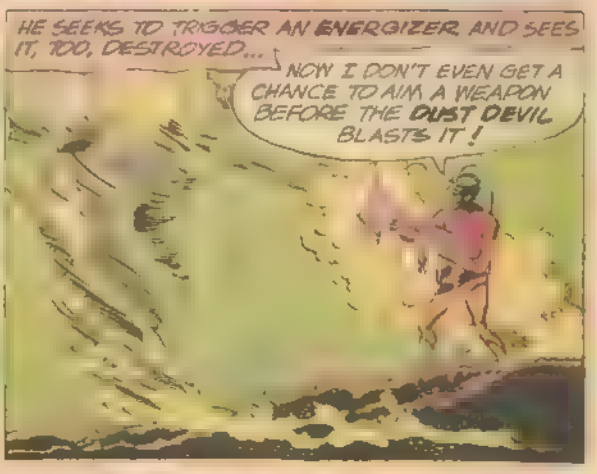
Ohhh, ADAM--WHAT GOOD WILL ANY WEAPON DO IF YOU DON'T GET A CHANCE TO USE IT?

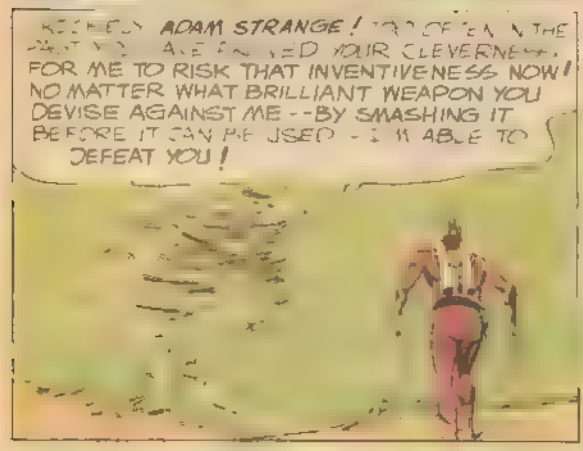
INSTANT LAUGHTER TRAILS AFTER THE DUO...

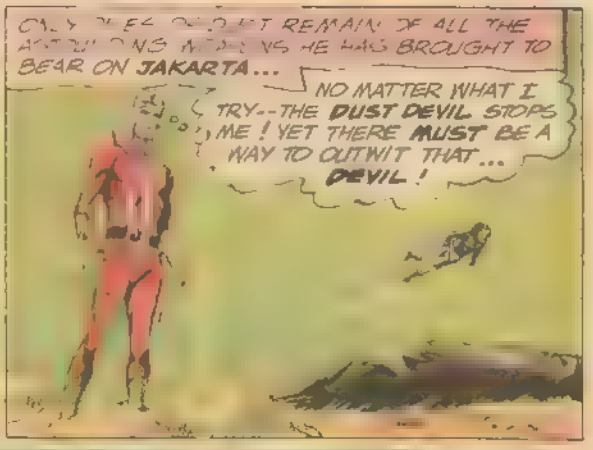
HA! HA! HA! KEEP TRYING, ADAM STRANGE! I HAVEN'T ENJOYED MYSELF SO MUCH IN AGES!

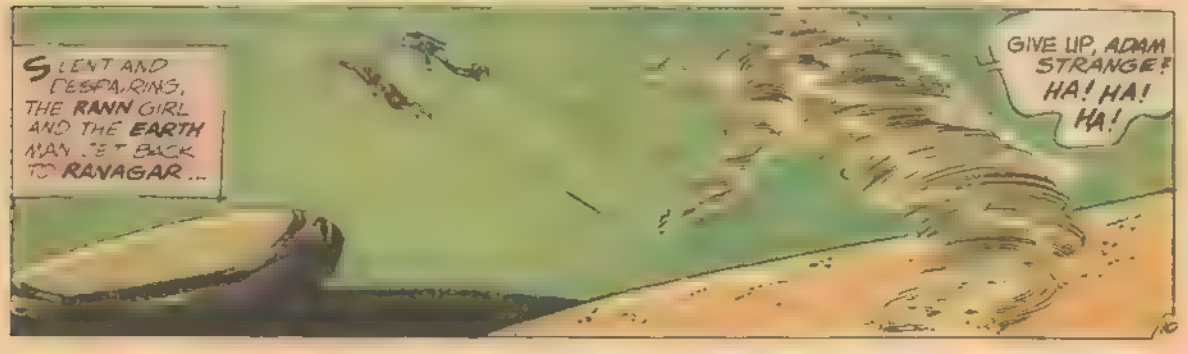
THE GREAT WEAPONS VAULT OF RANAGAR IS EMPTIED TO PROVIDE THE EARTH ARCHEOLOGIST WITH SOME MEANS BY WHICH TO OVERCOME JAKARTA...
IF THESE FAIL, ADAM--YOU'LL HAVE TO ACH'IT DEFEAT!
I'LL NEVER DO THAT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!


HE ATTEMPTS TO DO BATTLE WITH A SORAFUS-GUN--BUT SEES IT DISINTEGRATED IN HIS HANDS.


HE SEEKS TO TRIGGER AN ENERGIZER AND SEES IT, TOO, DESTROYED...
NOW I DON'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO AIM A WEAPON BEFORE THE DUST DEVIL BLASTS IT!


...ADAM STRANGE! ...OFFEN IN THE ...ARE FUELED YOUR CLEVERNESS. FOR ME TO RISK THAT INVENTIVENESS NOW! NO MATTER WHAT BRILLIANT WEAPON YOU DEVISE AGAINST ME--BY SMASHING IT BEFORE IT CAN BE USED--I'M ABLE TO DEFEAT YOU!

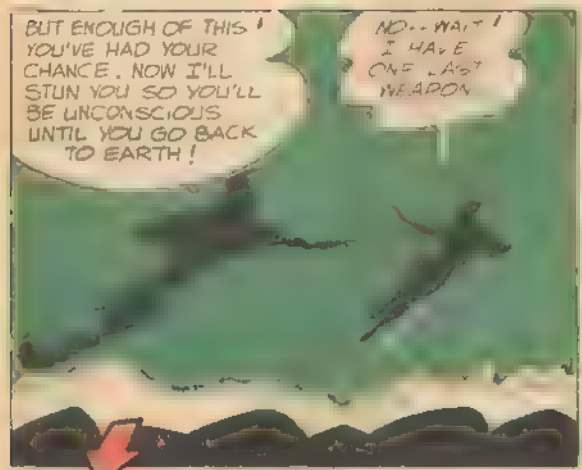

...ONLY ONE OBJECT REMAINS OF ALL THE ...WEAPONS MEN'S HE HAS BROUGHT TO BEAR ON JAKARTA...
NO MATTER WHAT I TRY--THE DUST DEVIL STOPS ME! YET THERE MUST BE A WAY TO OUTWIT THAT... DEVIL!


SILENT AND DESPAIRING, THE RANN GIRL AND THE EARTH MAN JET BACK TO RANAGAR...
GIVE UP, ADAM STRANGE! HA! HA! HA!

IN A SCIENCE LABORATORY A DETERMINED ADAM BATTLES ON...
NO! I DON'T GIVE UP! I'M NOT BEATEN YET! THIS DUST IS ALL OVER MY CLOTHES. HELP ME GET RID OF IT, HONEY! IT'S ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE WEAPONS I'VE USED AGAINST JAKARTA!
I'VE GOT TO INVENT A WEAPON THAT WILL TAKE THE DUST DEVIL BY SURPRISE--MAYBE A WEAPON THAT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A WEAPON!
IN A SECTION OF THE WEAPONS VAULT, HE CLIMBS UPON A BULGE RANN ON THE SIDE OF SAMAKAND..
Hmmm. MAYBE THIS WILL DO THE TRICK
WHICH ONE IS THAT, ADAM?
THE YOUNG ARCHEOLOGIST TURNS SO SUDDENLY THAT.
OOOPS!
ADAM--WATCH OUT! YOU'RE SPILLING THE DUST I SWEPT UP!
AHH--CHOOO! AHHH--CHOOOOO!
ADAM--HONESTLY! AHH--CHOOOO!
WITH A GRIN ADAM SWEEPS HIS SWEETHEART IN TO HIS ARMS
HONEY, YOU'RE AN ANGEL! YOU'VE GIVEN ME AN IDEA WHAT SORT OF WEAPON TO USE AGAINST JAKARTA!
I--I HAVE?!

ALANNA FROWNS IN PUZZLEMENT AS...
AHA! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK I'D NEVER GET AN IDEA!
BUT IF JAKARTA DESTROYS ALL YOUR WEAPONS BEFORE YOU USE THEM -- WHAT KIND OF WEAPON COULD IT BE THAT WOULD WORK?
A REAL TRICKY ONE, ANGEL! COME ON DOWN TO THE UNDER GROUND LAB WITH ME! I HAVE SOME EXPERIMENTS TO MAKE!
I WISH I FELT AS OPTIMISTIC AS YOU DO!
CLOSETING HIMSELF IN THE LABORATORY, ADAM MAKES TEST AFTER TEST OF THE DUST OF THE DESTROYED WEAPONS...
YOU SEE? BY TREATING THE DUST WITH RADIO-ACTIVITY -- AND BLOWING IT ON THAT GUINEA PIG, I FROZE IT MOTIONLESS!
BUT SURELY JAKARTA WOULD NEVER GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE IT!
EXACTLY! THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO TAKE THE BIGGEST WEAPON I CAN WITH ME -- TO A BATTLE-GROUND OF MY OWN CHOOSING!
SIGH! I'VE LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THESE BRAIN-STORMS OF YOURS ALWAYS DO THE TRICK! I SURE HOPE THIS ONE DOES, TOO!
FOR SEVERAL HOURS ADAM LABORS TO CREATE A MASSIVE WEAPON
BUT ADAM -- THAT WEAPON IS NOTHING BUT A SHELL! IT COULDN'T HURT A FLY!
SURE! THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF MY PLAN, HONEY!
YOU'RE TALKING IN RIDDLES! YOU HOPE TO DEFEAT JAKARTA -- WITH A WEAPON THAT DOESN'T SHOOT -- KNOWING HE'LL DESTROY IT BEFORE YOU GET THE CHANCE TO USE IT! I GIVE UP!

SWIFTLY ACROSS THE RANAGAR PLAIN FLEE ADAM AND ALANNA WITH THE DUST DEVIL IN CLOSE PURSUIT...
YOU'RE AFRAID OF ME ADAM STRANGE! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY! WELL, I CAN'T BLAME YOU! IT MUST BE VERY DISCOURAGING TO SEE SO MANY OF YOUR WEAPONS FAIL!
THEN ABOVE THE [illegible] OF KALTHYLL, THE EARTHMAN TURNS AT BAY.
THIS IS WHERE I MAKE MY STAND, JAKARTA-- WITH A WEAPON THAT WILL HURL YOU OUT OF THIS UNIVERSE INTO ANOTHER ONE!
IT MIGHT DO JUST THAT--IF I GAVE YOU A CHANCE TO USE IT!
ONCE AGAIN ADAM SEES HIS WEAPON BLASTED INTO DUST
OHHH! JAKARTA DE-STROYED IT!
AS I WANTED HIM TO DO HONEY- REMEMBER!
AS THE DUST SETTLES SILENTLY TO THE RADIOACTIVE ROCKS OF KALTHYLL, ALANNA CRIES OUT IN HORROR
THERE GOES YOUR LAST WEAPON, ADAM STRANGE-- TURNED TO DUST! I HAVE PROVED YOU COMPLETELY POWERLESS TO DEFEAT ME AND NOW RANN AND EARTH ARE MINE!
OH, ADAM-- YOU'LL NEVER BEAT THE DUST DEVIL NOW BECAUSE-- LOOK!
TO THE OTHER DUST DEVIL-- THE DUST JAKARTA FORMED TO GO BACK TO EARTH!
I MUST HAVE TIMED THE TWO TO BE HIT BY ANOTHER ZETA-BEAM!
YES, MY OTHER SELF HAS COME BACK FROM EARTH IN TIME TO REJOIN ME AND SHARE MY VICTORY OVER RANN! AND WITH ITS ZETA-BEAM RADIATION AGAIN INSIDE ME, I HAVE THE MEANS TO GO TO EARTH AND CONQUER THAT PLANET TOO!

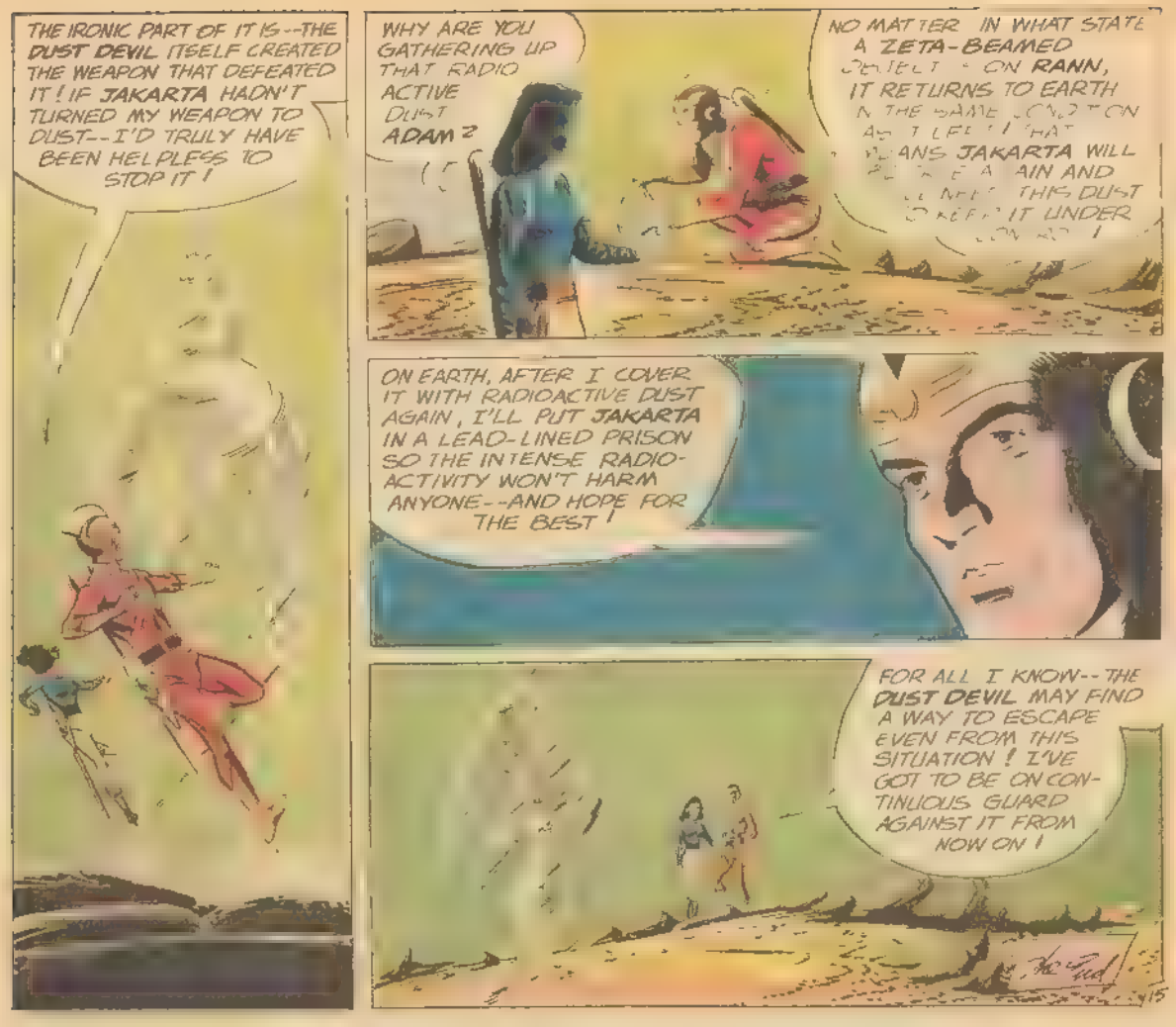

BUT ENOUGH OF THIS! YOU'VE HAD YOUR CHANCE. NOW I'LL STUN YOU SO YOU'LL BE UNCONSCIOUS UNTIL YOU GO BACK TO EARTH!
NO--WAIT! I HAVE ONE LAST WEAPON

I CAN AFFORD TO WASTE A FEW MORE MINUTES...
I--DON'T HAVE FAR TO GO FOR MY FINAL WEAPON.

WITH HIS JETS ON FULL POWER ADAM RISES UPWARD AT SUCH AN ANGLE THAT HIS JETS SEND A SHOWER OF RADIOACTIVE WEAPONS DUST OVER THE DUST DEVIL!...
JUST AS MY JETS SENT SAND SPRAYING OVER THE OTHER JAKARTA ON THE KALIHARI DESERT--SO THEY'LL SEND THE RADIOACTIVE DUST OF THE WEAPONS IT JUST BLASTED OVER THE DUST DEVIL!

DUE TO ITS CONTACT WITH THE RADIOACTIVE ROCKS OF KALTHYLL, THE DUST GLOWS AS IT SHOWERS UPWARD AND OVER JAKARTA...
THAT DUST! IT'S NUMBING ME SO MUCH I--CAN'T MOVE! I'M STARTING TO--LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS!

IN A DEADLY RAIN THE GLOWING DUST COVERS THE DUST DEVIL...
NOW YOU KNOW WHY I WANTED SUCH A BIG WEAPON, ALANNA! I NEEDED PLENTY OF DUST TO COVER JAKARTA! IT'S FROZEN MOTIONLESS, NOW! UTTERLY HELPLESS!


THE IRONIC PART OF IT IS--THE DUST DEVIL ITSELF CREATED THE WEAPON THAT DEFEATED IT! IF JAKARTA HADN'T TURNED MY WEAPON TO DUST--I'D TRULY HAVE BEEN HELPLESS TO STOP IT!
WHY ARE YOU GATHERING UP THAT RADIO ACTIVE DUST ADAM?
NO MATTER IN WHAT STATE A ZETA-BEAMED OBJECT IS ON RANN, IT RETURNS TO EARTH IN THE SAME CONDITION AS WHEN IT LEFT! THAT MEANS JAKARTA WILL BE FREE AGAIN AND CAN MAKE THIS DUST POWER KEEP IT UNDER CONTROL!
ON EARTH, AFTER I COVER IT WITH RADIOACTIVE DUST AGAIN, I'LL PUT JAKARTA IN A LEAD-LINED PRISON SO THE INTENSE RADIO-ACTIVITY WON'T HARM ANYONE--AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!
FOR ALL I KNOW--THE DUST DEVIL MAY FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE EVEN FROM THIS SITUATION! I'VE GOT TO BE ON CONTINUOUS GUARD AGAINST IT FROM NOW ON!
15

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WONDERS of SPACE

Dear Editor: SUPERB! That is the word that describes the stupendous February issue of *Mystery in Space*, from front to back jam-packed with the best of everything. The cover was good enough; I anticipated an exciting battle between *Adam Strange* and the cloud-creature. I looked further and found that it was a book-length story; this hinted even more of good plot development. To top all wonders, with my third look I found that it was a story not only about *Rann*, but about *Adam's* home world as well.

Right on the front page I found a new feature–*Alanna*, surprisingly, was on Earth, and *Adam* proceeded to show her the famous sights of our planet. Then a strange villain appeared to make me even more excited. All his cunning machinations, including the brilliant interjection of *Alanna's* duplicate on Earth, were revealed and a promise was made of dreadful things to come.

Another subordinate plot was introduced with the cloud-creature that was produced from the raw power of the cyberay. And then the brilliant duel where *Adam's* wits were against him culminated in his eventual triumph over *Alva Xar*.

I don't know how Gardner Fox manages to dream up so many interlocking plots, but they certainly make for wonderful reading "The Cloud-Creature that Menaced Two Worlds" will take its place beside "The Planet that Came to a Standstill" as one of the most exciting and original *Adam Strange* stories ever published.

George Fergus, 3825 W. 160th St., Cleveland 11, O.
(*The overwhelming, unanimous praise accorded "Cloud-Creature that Menaced Two Worlds" has made it impossible for us to balance this department with the usual potpourri of critical comments. So please bear with us this issue while our readers go to town with a hip-hip hooray!*–Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: Albeit you apparently appreciate alliteration when attention approaches art awards. I'm averse to avail my adherance in application to this attrition of astute asseveration–besides which, it's that much more difficult to get my point across. Namely . .

"The Cloud-Creature that Menaced Two Worlds" is without a doubt the peak of *Adam Strange*, and the finest science-fiction story published since the early days of adventure-fantasy Specifically, it exploited the prime, all-too-rare element of REALISM in characterization, along with credibility.

The double A's (*Adam* and *Alanna*), romance is to my mind a sublime measure of real life, unmatched by any of the other DC heroes. When *Alanna* is shown crying in fear and desperation (page 24, panel 1), I am reminded (hauntingly) of the pure evil glaring from the face of *Ava Xar* (page 8, panel 3). Both these illustrations prove the artistic mastery of Infantino and Anderson.

Ronn Foss, Wagon Wheel Apts. 5, Suisun, Calif.
(*Not that Ronn Foss dished out this compliment in order to get one in return, but we can't help handing him a round of applause for his top-notch comic fan magazines, ALTER-EGO and COMICOLLECTOR. Interested readers should write Ronn directly for info on these fanzines.*–Editor)

• • •

Dear Editor: Good grief, you outdid yourself again! By far the February *MIS* was the best issue ever put out.

The artwork was superb and exceeded anything in the National Comics line. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect to see the illustrating so spectacular and vivid. Here you demonstrated *Alanna's* new hair style which is something new for a change. *MIS* is always a changing magazine and the changes are always good.) I admit she looked beautiful before, but now she's stunning

Naturally the story should live up to the artwork and it did! I'm sure this story will become a classic! Of all the problem situations I have ever seen, this one heads the list. In this story, originality was the key word. The plot was unequaled in quality. The story was wonderfully outlined and might have been spread out over two issues–but your overworking staff combined all the plot elements into one explosive, action-packed sensation. Take a bow, all of you.

You seem to be fortunate with your letter column. The letters are extremely interesting. I suspect many readers will want a regular villain. Little do they realize they already have one–the editor–with his wild puns!

Julian Kowalewski,
102 Cambria Rd., Rochester 17, N. Y.
(*Relax! Any temptation we might have had to pun a reply has been successfuly resisted!*–Editor)

This issue's award winners: To George Fergus, Chapter 1 of "Cloud-Creature that Menaced Two Worlds", chapter 2 goes to Ronn Foss; chapter 3 to Julian Kowalewski. Although their fine letters were crowded out of this issue, Lucinda Briggs (Port Alsworth, Alaska) has won Chapter 4 of "Cloud-Creature", James Morehead (1541 Metairie Rd., Metairie, La.) has copped the "Cloud-Creature" cover; the "Cloud-Creature" script goes to Sidney Costello, Jr., (832 N Catalina St., Burbank, Cal.)

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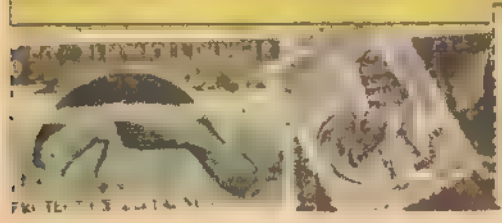

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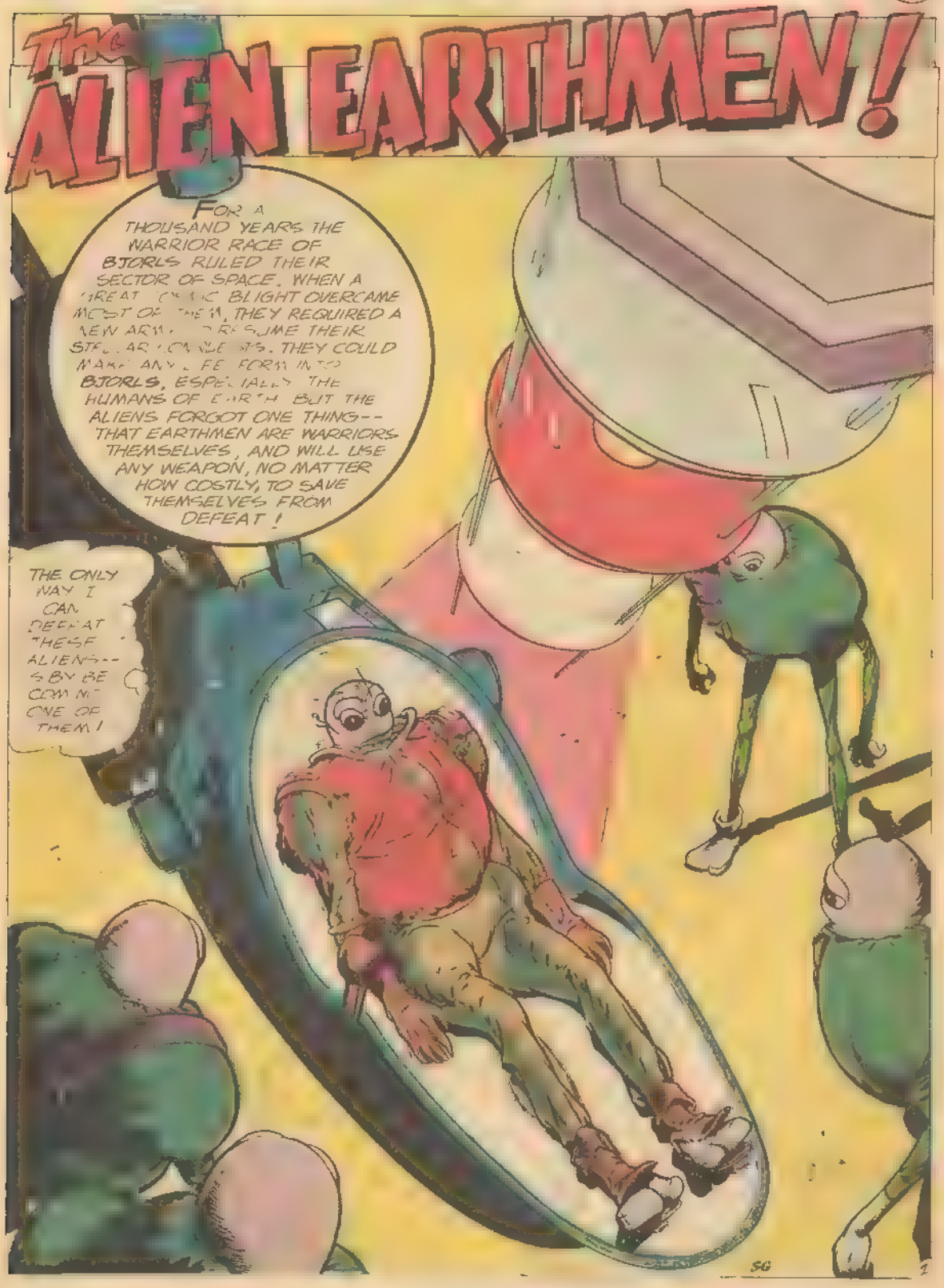
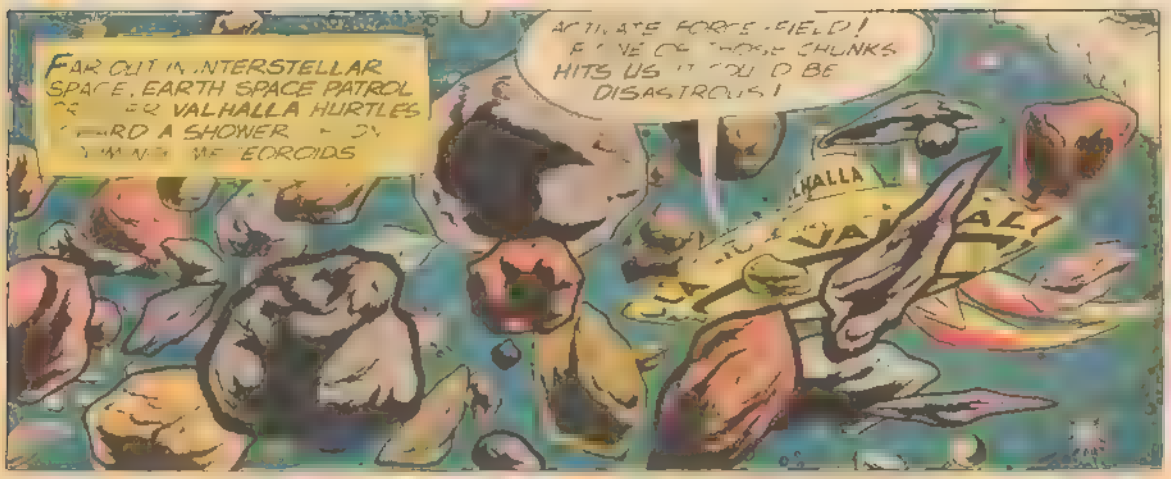
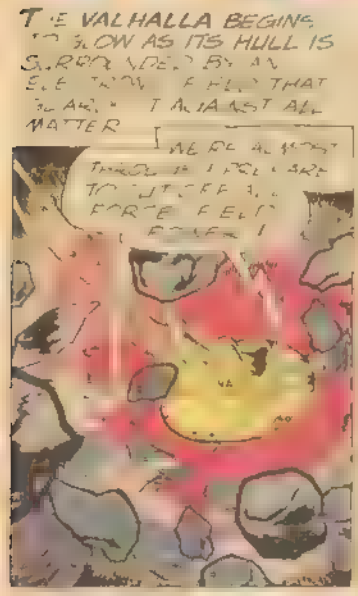
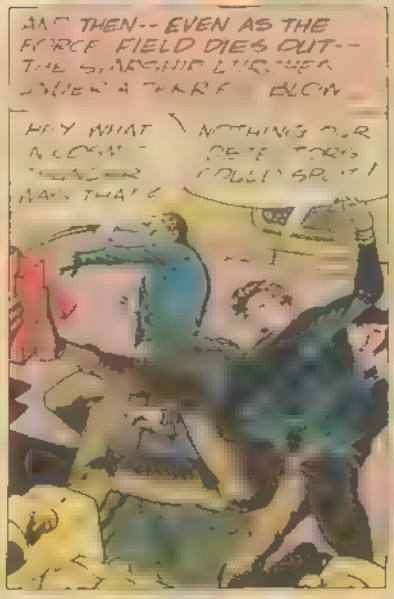
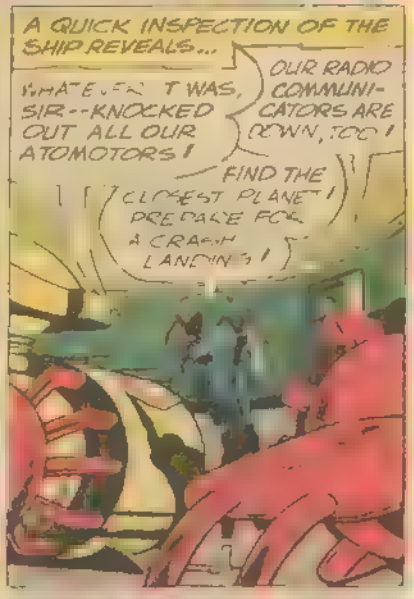

The ALIEN EARTHMEN!
FOR A THOUSAND YEARS THE WARRIOR RACE OF BJORLS RULED THEIR SECTOR OF SPACE. WHEN A GREAT COSMIC BLIGHT OVERCAME MOST OF THEM, THEY REQUIRED A NEW ARMY TO RESUME THEIR STELLAR CONQUESTS. THEY COULD MAKE ANY LIFE FORM INTO BJORLS, ESPECIALLY THE HUMANS OF EARTH BUT THE ALIENS FORGOT ONE THING--THAT EARTHMEN ARE WARRIORS THEMSELVES, AND WILL USE ANY WEAPON, NO MATTER HOW COSTLY, TO SAVE THEMSELVES FROM DEFEAT!
THE ONLY WAY I CAN DEFEAT THESE ALIENS--IS BY BECOMING ONE OF THEM!
SG
1


FAR OUT IN INTERSTELLAR SPACE, EARTH SPACE PATROL [illegible] VALHALLA HURTLES [illegible] A SHOWER [illegible] METEOROIDS
ACTIVATE FORCE-FIELD! ONE OF THOSE CHUNKS HITS US IT COULD BE DISASTROUS!
VALHALLA
JA[illegible]AL!

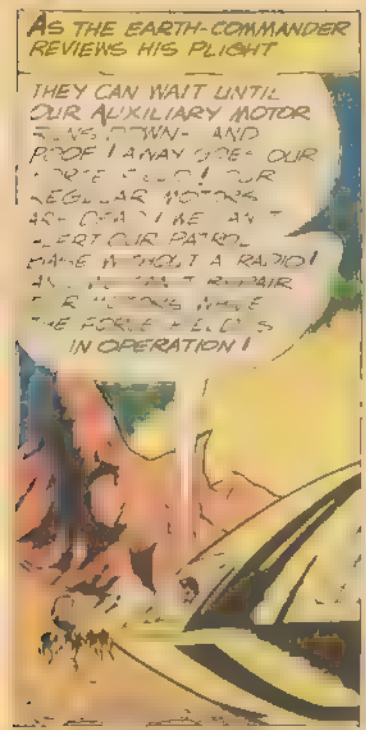

THE VALHALLA BEGINS TO SLOW AS ITS HULL IS SURROUNDED BY AN ELECTRON FIELD THAT BLANKS THAT ALMOST ALL MATTER
WE'RE ALMOST THROUGH! I DON'T LIKE TO TURN OFF THE FORCE FIELD EVEN!

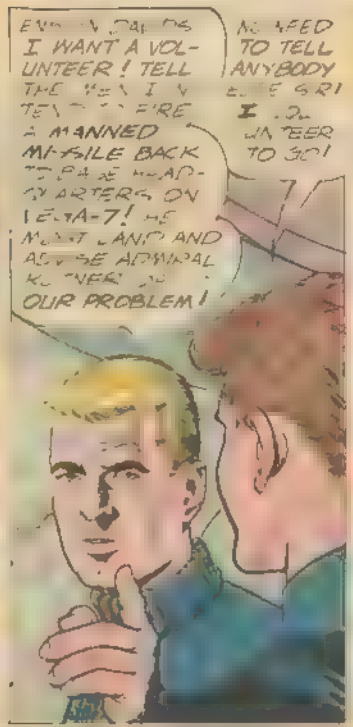

AND THEN--EVEN AS THE FORCE FIELD DIES OUT--THE STARSHIP LURCHES UNDER A TERRIFIC BLOW
HEY WHAT NOTHING OUR [illegible] COULD SPOT IT!
MAN, THAT'S

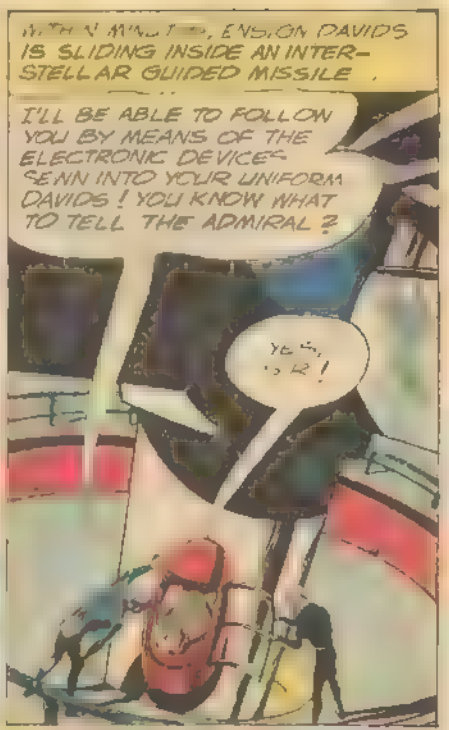

A QUICK INSPECTION OF THE SHIP REVEALS...
WHATEVER IT WAS, SIR--KNOCKED OUT ALL OUR ATOMOTORS!
OUR RADIO COMMUNICATORS ARE DOWN, TOO!
FIND THE CLOSEST PLANET! PREPARE FOR A CRASH LANDING!

[illegible] A [illegible] OF PLANET AND BRAKES ITS BOTTOM ON THE GROUND OF AN UNEXPLORED WORLD
OUR INVISIBLE HAMMER RAY DID ITS WORK AGAIN! THE SHIP IS DISABLED! NOW WE CAN ATTACK--BUT REMEMBER! NOT A HUMAN IS TO BE HARMED!

AS COMMANDER OWENS IS ABOUT TO LEAD HIS CREW FROM THE SHIP TO GATHER NEEDED SUPPLIES
AN UNDERGROUND STRONGHOLD AND ARMED ALIENS EMERGING FROM IT! LOOKS LIKE AN ATTACK! GEAR YOUR WEAPONS, MEN!
BUT WHEN THE EARTHMEN FIRE THEIR RAY-RIFLES AND BEAM-GUNS, THEY DISCOVER TO THEIR DISMAY THAT
THOSE ALIENS DRAW OUR FIRE-POWER TO THEM AND--ABSORB THEM!
THEY'RE USING STUN-GUNS--KNOCKING US UNCONSCIOUS!
COMMANDER OWENS LIFTS THE MOST RECENT WEAPON ISSUED TO COMBAT TROOPS--A MOLECULIZER...
IF THIS HITS 'EM--IT'LL TURN THEM INTO DUST MOTES!
BUT ONCE AGAIN THE DISCS DO THEIR WORK, THOUGH THE ALIENS BLINK SIGHTLESSLY BEFORE THE PURPLE FLARE OF THE NEW WEAPON
ALL THE WEAPON DOES IS MOMENTARILY BLIND THEM!
PICKING UP THE UNCONSCIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CREW, COMMANDER OWENS ORDERS HIS MEN BACK TO THE SAFETY OF THE VALHALLA...
ACTIVATE THE FORCE-FIELD ON OUR AUXILIARY MOTOR! AT LEAST THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO BREAK IN HERE WITH THAT ON!


AS THE EARTH-COMMANDER REVIEWS HIS PLIGHT
THEY CAN WAIT UNTIL OUR AUXILIARY MOTOR
OUR

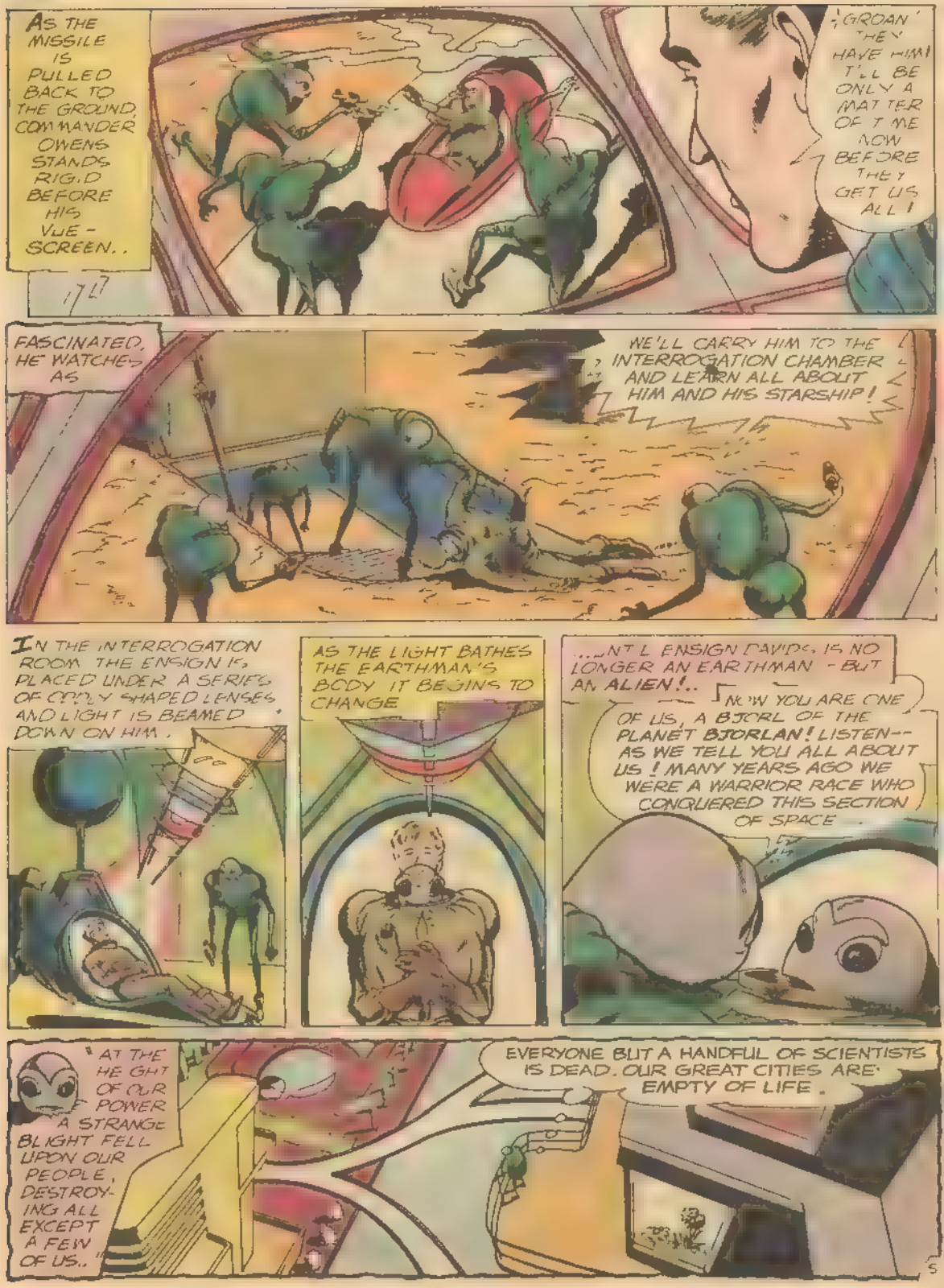

I WANT A VOLUNTEER! TELL
A MANNED MISSILE BACK
OUR PROBLEM!
NO NEED TO TELL ANYBODY
I VOLUNTEER TO GO!


IS SLIDING INSIDE AN INTER-STELLAR GUIDED MISSILE
I'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW YOU BY MEANS OF THE ELECTRONIC DEVICES SENN INTO YOUR UNIFORM DAVIDS! YOU KNOW WHAT TO TELL THE ADMIRAL?
YES, SIR!

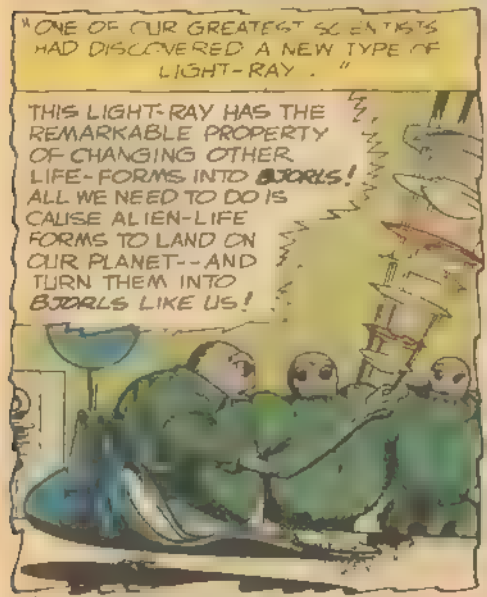
MOMENTS LATER

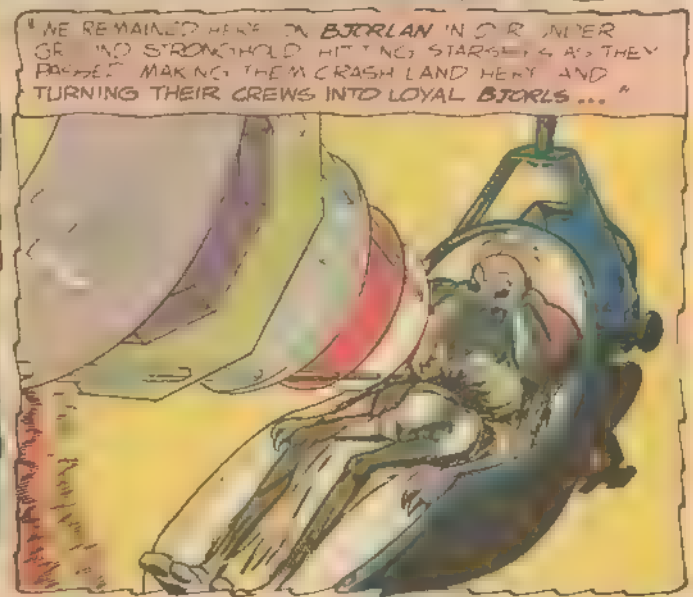
A MATTER OF DAYS OR EVEN HOURS

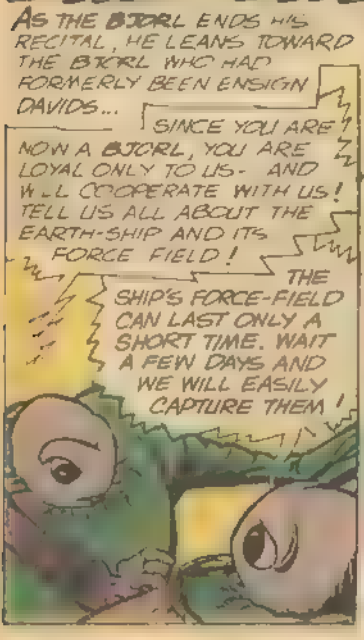
HOLD OF ME! TARTING


AS THE MISSILE IS PULLED BACK TO THE GROUND, COMMANDER OWENS STANDS RIGID BEFORE HIS VUE-SCREEN..
GROAN! THEY HAVE HIM! IT'LL BE ONLY A MATTER OF TIME NOW BEFORE THEY GET US ALL!
FASCINATED, HE WATCHES AS
WE'LL CARRY HIM TO THE INTERROGATION CHAMBER AND LEARN ALL ABOUT HIM AND HIS STARSHIP!
IN THE INTERROGATION ROOM THE ENSIGN IS PLACED UNDER A SERIES OF OPTICALLY SHAPED LENSES AND LIGHT IS BEAMED DOWN ON HIM.
AS THE LIGHT BATHES THE EARTHMAN'S BODY IT BEGINS TO CHANGE
...NTL ENSIGN DAVIDS, IS NO LONGER AN EARTHMAN - BUT AN ALIEN!..
NOW YOU ARE ONE OF US, A BJORL OF THE PLANET BJORLAN! LISTEN-- AS WE TELL YOU ALL ABOUT US! MANY YEARS AGO WE WERE A WARRIOR RACE WHO CONQUERED THIS SECTION OF SPACE.
"AT THE HEIGHT OF OUR POWER A STRANGE BLIGHT FELL UPON OUR PEOPLE, DESTROYING ALL EXCEPT A FEW OF US.."
EVERYONE BUT A HANDFUL OF SCIENTISTS IS DEAD. OUR GREAT CITIES ARE EMPTY OF LIFE.

"THE PLANETS WE HAD SUB-JUGATED THREW OFF THEIR YOKES. ALONE, WE COULD DO NOTHING TO RESTORE BJORLAN TO ITS FORMER GLORY."
WE NEED AN ARMY TO INVADE AND RE-CONQUER OUR COLONY PLANETS--AND WE HAVE NONE!
BUT THERE MAY BE A WAY OF BUILDING A NEW ARMY!


"ONE OF OUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS HAD DISCOVERED A NEW TYPE OF LIGHT-RAY."
THIS LIGHT-RAY HAS THE REMARKABLE PROPERTY OF CHANGING OTHER LIFE-FORMS INTO BJORLS! ALL WE NEED TO DO IS CAUSE ALIEN-LIFE FORMS TO LAND ON OUR PLANET--AND TURN THEM INTO BJORLS LIKE US!


"WE REMAINED HERE ON BJORLAN IN ORDER TO MAN STRONGHOLD HITTING STARSHIPS AS THEY PASSED, MAKING THEM CRASH LAND HERE AND TURNING THEIR CREWS INTO LOYAL BJORLS..."


AS THE BJORL ENDS HIS RECITAL, HE LEANS TOWARD THE BJORL WHO HAD FORMERLY BEEN ENSIGN DAVIDS...
SINCE YOU ARE NOW A BJORL, YOU ARE LOYAL ONLY TO US--AND WILL COOPERATE WITH US! TELL US ALL ABOUT THE EARTH-SHIP AND ITS FORCE FIELD!
THE SHIP'S FORCE-FIELD CAN LAST ONLY A SHORT TIME. WAIT A FEW DAYS AND WE WILL EASILY CAPTURE THEM!

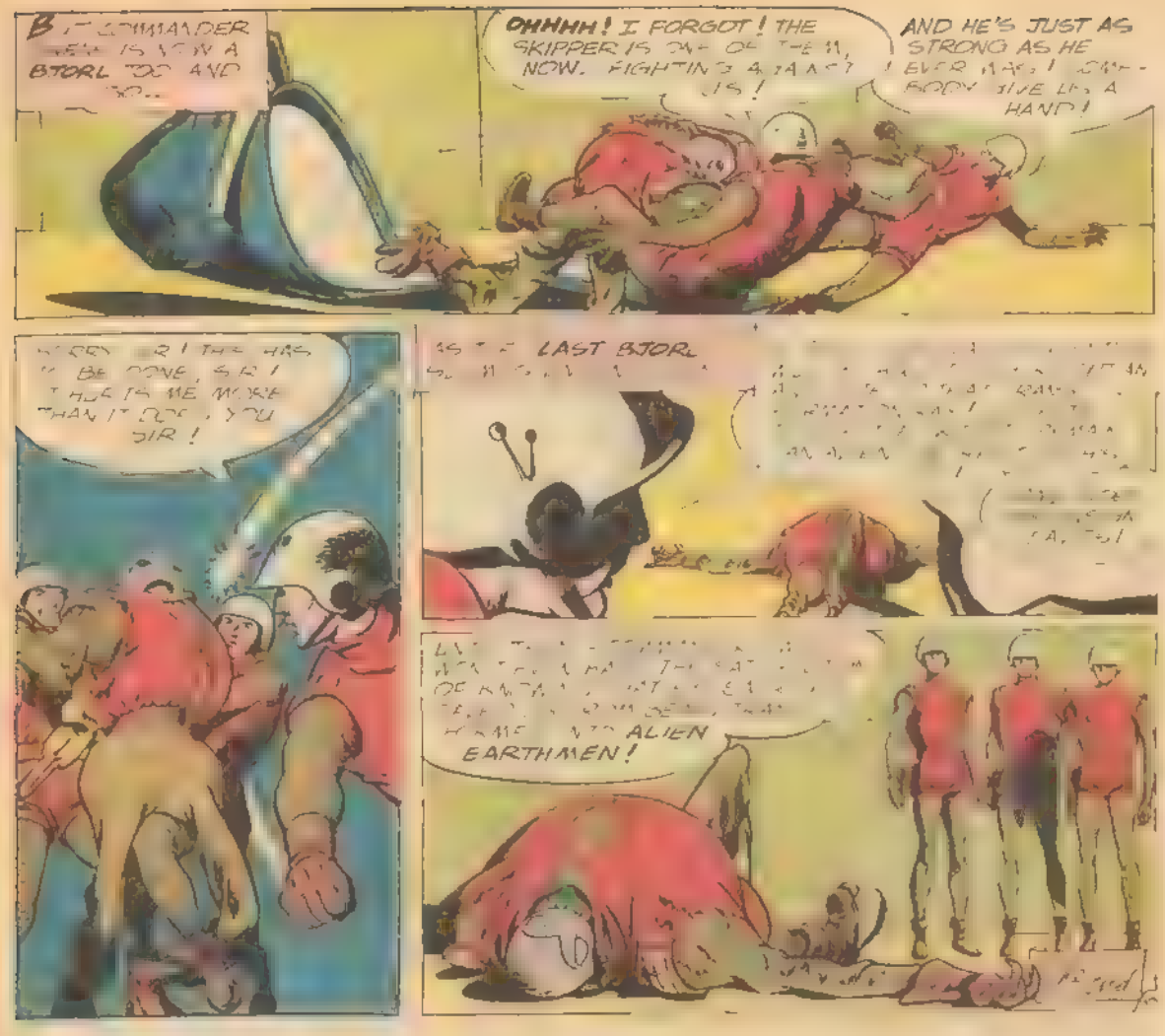
ALL THIS WHILE COMMANDER OWENS HAS BEEN AN INTERESTED AND HORRIFIED OBSERVER
TOO BAD I CAN'T RECEIVE THEIR TELEPATHIC THOUGHTS! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE DAVIDS HAS BEEN BRAIN-WASHED AND IS TELLING THEM ALL ABOUT US! THEY'LL KNOW THAT THE FORCE-FIELD WILL FADE--AND ATTACK US!

STILL--THERE MUST BE A WAY TO SNATCH A VICTORY OUT OF SURE DEFEAT! I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING THAT MAY HELP!

IN THE SPACE LABORATORY
I NOTICED THAT WHEN I FIRED THIS MOLECULIZER -- ITS PURPLE FLARE BLINDED THE ALIENS FOR A MOMENT OR SO! DO YOU CAN YOU DUPLICATE THE FLARE CHEMICALLY?
IF I HAVE ENOUGH OF THE PROPER CHEMICALS SIR. LET ME TAKE A LOOK!
THE MOLECULIZER ITSELF DOESN'T GIVE OFF ENOUGH OF A FLARE! I WANT A BRIGHT, LONG, ONE!
I HAVE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES TO DO JUST THAT - MAKE ONE BRIGHT, LONG ONE! NO MORE!
AS THE CHEMIST GETS TO WORK..
SINCE WE'LL HAVE JUST ONE SHOT WITH THE FLARE, IT HAS TO WORK INSTANTLY ON ALL THE ALIENS! I CAN'T RISK FIRING A BOMB -- THEY MIGHT DISINTEGRATE IT! NO, THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO WORK THIS RIGHT!
WHAT'S THAT SKIPPER?
I MUST BARGE RIGHT INTO THE ALIENS' STRONGHOLD, CARRYING THE FLARE PAINTED ON MY COMBAT SUIT! YOU'LL TRIGGER IT OFF THEN VIA REMOTE CONTROL!
BUT THE ALIENS MIGHT CAPTURE YOU - TURN YOU INTO AN ALIEN AS THEY DID DAVIDS! IT'S TOO GREAT A RISK TO TAKE!
SOON COMMANDER OWENS' COMBAT SUIT IS BEING PAINTED WITH THE FLARE CHEMICALS
NO RISK IS TOO GREAT IF I CAN STOP THEM AND SAVE OUR SELVES!
I MYSELF WILL TAKE OVER THE TRIGGERING OF THE PAINT, SO THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE!
REMEMBER -- DON'T ACTIVATE THE FLARE UNTIL YOU SEE ALL THE BJORLS TOGETHER! NOW -- RAISE THE FORCE-FIELD LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO SLIP THROUGH!

WITH HIS SUIT COATED WITH THE FLARE PAINT, THE VALHALLA COMMANDER RACES ACROSS THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET BJORLAN...
THEY'LL THINK I'VE COME OUT TO ENTER THE MISSILE AND TRY TO TAKE OFF!
HE FIRES HIS RAYGUN 2.IT IS CALIBRATED BY THE BEST KNOWN BLAST OF A STUNNER
MY PLAN'S WORKING! NOW THEY'LL MAKE ME THEIR PRISONER...
ANXIOUS EYES IN THE VALHALLA WATCH AS..
THEY'VE GOT THE SKIPPER! SWITCH ON THAT FLARE!
NO, NOT YET! YOU HEARD HIS ORDERS! HE WANTS TO CATCH THEM ALL TOGETHER! OTHERWISE -- HIS PLAN WON'T WORK!
COMMANDER DIES IN AN AGONY OF SUSPENSE AS HE AWAITS THE INVESTIGATION ROOM
NOT NEARLY ENOUGH BJORLS HERE! WHERE ARE THEY? WON'T THEY ALL COME FOR MY QUESTIONING AS THE LAW FOR PA. DS 2
AND THEN, SLOWLY THE ROOM BEGINS TO FILL
HERE THEY COME NOW!
AT THE SAME INSTANT THE LENSES AT THE HEAD ARE ACTIVATED AND
THEY DIDN'T COME IN FAST ENOUGH! I'M GOING TO BE TURNED INTO A BJORL!

AS THESE SHIPS ARE A GIANT FLOATING CHEMIST SHOP THERE ARE CHEMICALS...
IN THE INTERGALACTIC [illegible] OF THE VALHALLA
THE FORCE-FIELD ABOUT THE VALHALLA GOES DOWN AND THE EARTH SPACE-WARRIORS RACE TOWARDS THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDER-GROUND CITADEL
THE [illegible] OF THE INTERGALACTIC [illegible] HAS BLINDED THE WORLDS' [illegible] IN THE "BLIND" [illegible]
MAKE OUR RAY-GUNS
AS AFFECTED THE BJORLS RECOVER THEIR SIGHT, THEY


OHHHH! I FORGOT! THE SKIPPER IS ONE OF THE 11, NOW. FIGHTING AGAINST US!
AND HE'S JUST AS STRONG AS HE EVER WAS! EVERYBODY GIVE HIM A HAND!
LAST BJORL
ALIEN EARTHMEN!

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IN THE TWO LARGE YELLOW CIRCLES, WHICH CENTER DOT IS LARGER?

Answer: THEY ARE BOTH THE SAME SIZE!

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ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERIES--1962

FOLLOWING ARE AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS OF ASTRONOMICAL DISCOVERIES MADE DURING THE YEAR 1962..

INFRA-RED SPECTRA OF THE PARTICLES OF MATTER COMPOSING THE RINGS OF *SATURN* SHOWED THAT THEY ARE COATED WITH FROST CRYSTALS

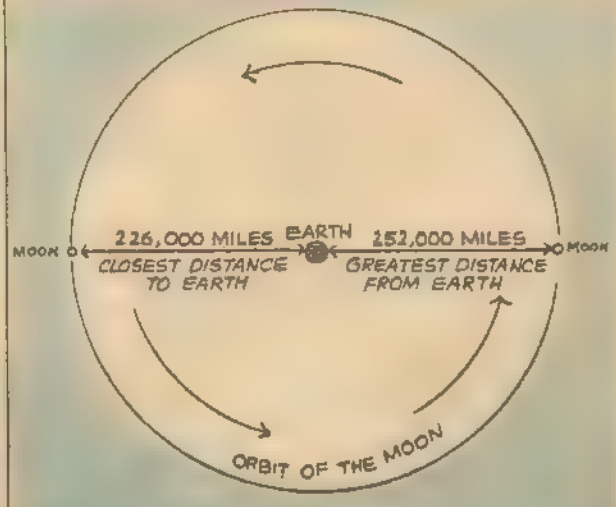
A STUDY OF HOW OUR SUN MIGHT HAVE FORMED FROM A CLOUD OF INTERSTELLAR GAS INDICATES THAT OUR SOLAR BODY IN ITS EARLY FORMATION STAGE HAD A RADIUS SEVERAL HUNDRED TIMES ITS PRESENT DISTANCE (93 MILLION MILES) FROM THE EARTH..

THE SMALL DOT AT THE BOTTOM SHOWS THE COMPARATIVE SIZE OF THE EARTH TO THE SUN.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE RED-SHIFT OF LIGHT OF THE REMOTEST GALAXIES INDICATED THAT THE UNIVERSE IS SLOWING DOWN ITS EXPANSION; IT MAY EVENTUALLY COME TO A STOP AND THEN BEGIN TO CONTRACT..

THE EDGE ON SPIRAL NEBULA IN *PEGASUS* BEARS A CURIOUS RESEMBLANCE TO AN ELECTRIC ARC BETWEEN TWO POINTED ELECTRODES

BY USING THREE DIFFERENT METHODS, ASTRONOMERS DETERMINED THAT THE MEAN DISTANCE FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON WAS 238,866 MILES (GIVE OR TAKE ONE MILE).



MAKE ALL OUT WAR IN YOUR OWN HOME... PLAY ALONE OR AGAINST OTHER PLAYERS... YOU GET ENOUGH NUCLEAR BATTLE EQUIPMENT FOR MAXIMUM EFFORT WARFARE AND MASSIVE COUNTER-ATTACK! NEVER BEFORE SO MUCH ACTUAL-DESIGN WORKING MODEL U.S.A.F.-TYPE FIREPOWER AND MANPOWER!

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Your opponent prepares to launch a sneak atomic attack. He sets the locking trigger and adjusts the automatic elevation control on his ICBMT Launcher. He fires! But you are ready! Your missile base crewmen intercept the warning on their self-contained oxy-radar packs. Your XA-Counter-fighter is launched to intercept . . . contact . . . you deliver the nuclear knockout. But wait! You have been attacked by a double-stage warhead and the second one is bearing down. Your crew can only use their hand-gun radi-activators. Can you still win? Are you good enough to survive? Only you can answer . . . send for Missile Attack today and find out!

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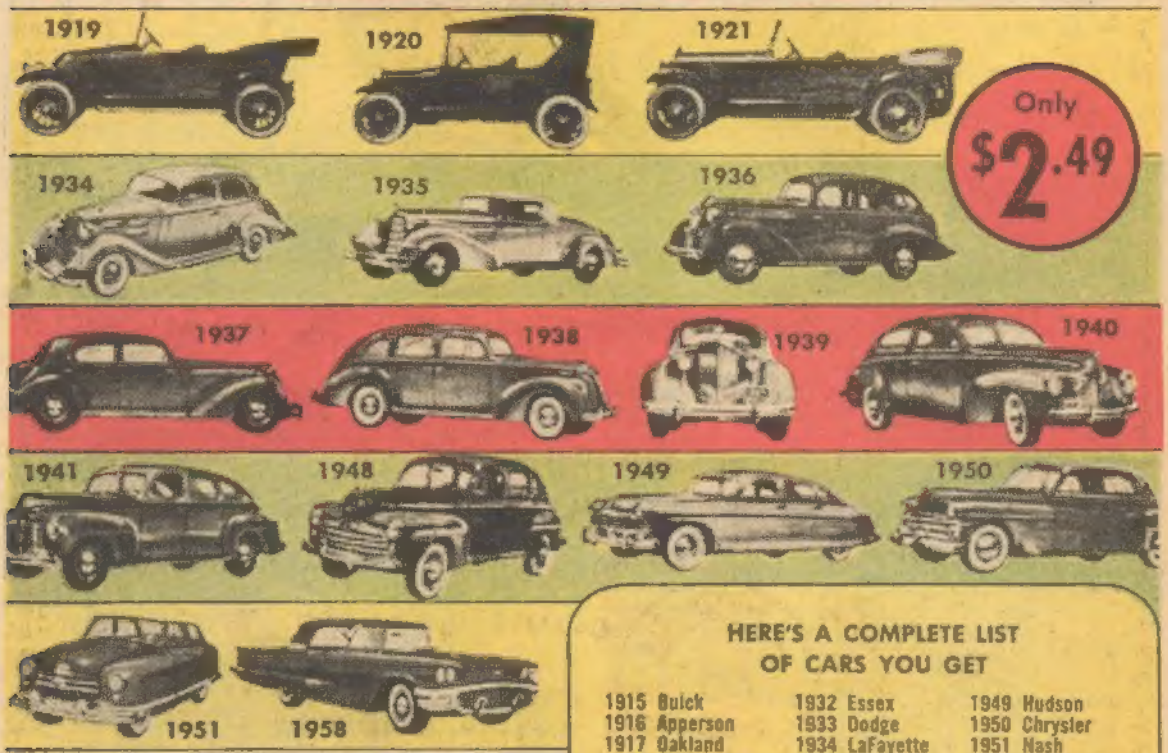

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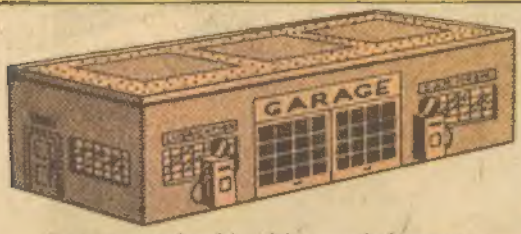

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1921 Case	1938 Ford	1955 Lincoln
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1923 Stearns	1940 Mercury	1957 DeSoto
1924 Chandler	1941 Plymouth	1958 Ford Thunderbird
1925 Locomobile	1942 Lincoln	1959 Rambler
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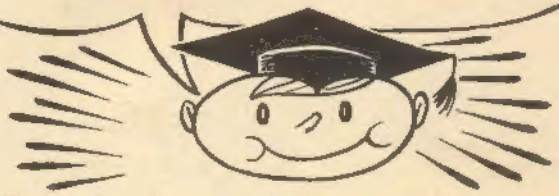

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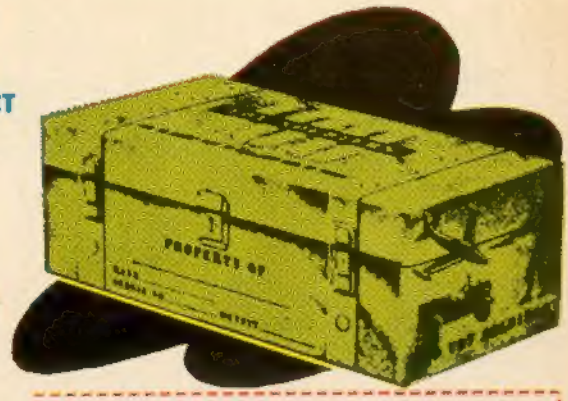

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